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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

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Chairman of the Council : Councillor G. H. CLARKE, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor T. H. HASELDINE, J.P.

Councillors : ATTER, DOUGLAS, LEE, LOVE, NUTT, THOMAS and WRIGHT

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health : D. H. WALDRON,

O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., Col. I.M.S. (Retd.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also the M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., and Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Linslade U.D.C., Wing R.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional School M.O. for the North Bucks Division and Buckingham and Winslow District).

SANITARY INSPECTORS

ARTHUR BAKER, F.I.A.S., A.R.S.I.

D. M. TUCKER

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Wolverton

20th July, 1956.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1955.

There were a total of 179 births during the year, giving a corrected birth rate of 15.0 per 1,000 population. This compares favourably with the rate for England and Wales which was also 15.0 per 1,000 population.

The death rate shows a satisfactory drop this year and at 9.4 per 1,000 of the population is more than 2 points lower than the rate for England and Wales. Of the total of 169 deaths, Heart and allied diseases and Cancer accounted for 134.

The Infantile Mortality rate shows a most satisfactory drop, being only 5.6 per 1,000 live births. This indeed compares most favourably with the figure of the previous year which was 27.2 per 1,000 live births and also for the figure for England and Wales which is 24.9.

In the sphere of Infectious Disease we had 6 cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis notified during the year in the late Summer and early Autumn. Fortunately there were no deaths. It is heartening to report that at last a positive measure against this disease has emerged in the form of the new Polio Vaccine. This vaccine, which had been extensively tried in America, Canada, South Africa and Germany, was at last given the blessing of the Ministry of Health in this country. We were promised that a limited amount of the vaccine would be made available for the North Bucks Area early in 1956 and, at the time of writing, 27 children in the Wolverton area have had the benefit of this innoculation. We have been promised larger supplies in the late Autumn of 1956 and it is hoped that, in time to come, everybody will have the opportunity of getting the benefit of this protection against the disease, the epidemiology of which still puzzles the Public Health Authorities.

I took over the appointment of your Medical Officer of Health from Dr. D. W. A. Bull in July and I should like to thank him for his valuable advice and assistance.

I should like also to record the pleasant co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. J. B. Harwood, your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. A. Baker, the additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. D. M. Tucker and their Staffs.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

DANIEL H. WALDRON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS For the year 1955

Area (in acres)	4699
Population	13510
Number of Inhabited houses	4579
Rateable Value (1st April)	£74,153
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£301
Rate per £1	30/-

Births

Legitimate : Males	78
Females	93
Illegitimate : Males	3
Females	5
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	15.0
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population Bucks County	15.4
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population England & Wales	15.0
Still Births	2

Deaths

Males	88
Females	81
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	9.4
Death Rate per 1,000 Population Bucks County	9.8
Death Rate per 1,000 Population England & Wales	11.7
Maternal Mortality	Nil
Maternal Mortality England & Wales	.64

Infantile Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	5.6
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County	20.0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales	24.9

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

	M	F	T
Tuberculosis, respiratory	0	1	1
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
Diptheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococeal Infections	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Cancer	14	20	34
Leukaemia	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0
Cerebral Haemorrhage	12	16	28
Heart Disease	39	26	65
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	6	7
Influenza	0	1	1
Bronchitis	2	5	7
Pneumonia	6	0	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	0	3
Digestive Diseases	1	1	2
Nephritis	1	0	1
Hyperplosia of Prostrate	3	0	3
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	1	0	1
Accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	2	0	2
All other Causes	2	4	6
Total ...	88	81	169

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. Laboratory Services

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Northampton. Samples for chemical analysis are sent to London.

2. Ambulance Lorries

These services are administered by the County Council and are now radio controlled from Aylesbury with sub-stations throughout the County. The Wolverton area is covered by Bletchley sub-station. British Railways also maintain an ambulance at Wolverton Works.

3. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics .....

Clinics are held twice monthly in New Bradwell and Stony Stratford and three times monthly at Wolverton. These clinics are attended by Nurses, Health Visitors and a doctor, and immunizations against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough were carried out in addition to routine inspections. The total number of atendances by children was 3,839. A word of thanks and praise must be given to the ladies of the voluntary committee who give so much of their spare time in helping to organise these clinics.

4. Chest Clinic

The clinic continues to do excellent work in the field of prevention and control of Tuberculosis. Sessions are held weekly at Messrs. McCorquodale's, Wolverton and are under the personal supervision of the County Chest Physician.

5. Physiotherapy Clinic

Administered by Northampton General Hospital this clinic functions daily at Wolverton Road, Stony Stratford and is doing excellent work.

6. Wolverton Diagnostic Clinic

This clinic also administered by the Northampton General Hospital is located at Messrs. McCorquodale's and is attended at various times during the week by Specialists from Northampton.

7. **Dental Clinic**

Administered by the County Council this clinic is located at Wolverton and is doing excellent work amongst the school children.

8. **Nursing Facilities**

As in previous years the District Nurses carried on their excellent and noble work.

9. **Health Visiting**

The whole time Health Visitors are doing excellent work in this area.

10. **Home Helps Services**

This service, administered by the County Council with the assistance of the Women's Voluntary Service has done very good work since its inception. Approximately 285 cases were assisted during the year.

11. **Hospital Services**

The majority of cases are sent to the Northampton Group of Hospitals, but some are also admitted to the Aylesbury and Oxford Groups.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

In spite of the at times 'unpalatable' nature of the water supplied to the townships of Wolverton and New Bradwell the bacteriological and chemical analyses have been of a high standard.

Samples of water have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service monthly for bacteriological examination and a total of 81 samples were so submitted. In every case the Analyst reported that the water was very satisfactory.

Details of samples of water submitted for chemical analysis are given below.

	Parts per 100,000	
	Bucks Water Board	Calverton Rd. Pumping Station Stony Stratford
Total Solid Residue	61.6	72.0
Chloride as Cl	2.7	3.0
as NaCl	4.45	4.95
Free and Saline Ammonia	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0032	0.0048
Oxygen absorbed from N/80 permanganate in 3 hours at 98°F.	Nil	Nil
Hardness	39.2	46.0
Permanent Hardness	17.8	19.8
Temporary Hardness	21.4	26.2
Reaction (pH)	7.2	6.9
Nitrates as Nitrogen	0.4	0.7
Nitrates as Nitrogen	Absent	Absent
Lead, Copper and Zinc	Absent	Absent

Public Cleansing

The collection of house refuse is on a satisfactory basis.

Closet Accommodation

With the exception of the Wealds of Calverton practically 100% of the houses in the district are on a water carriage system.

Shops Act, 1950 (S.38.)

Shops have been inspected for contravention of the above Act.

Markets

The market is inspected weekly as routine

Smoke Abatement

Observation of chimneys have been taken and three written notices of excessive smoke emission sent to the persons concerned. In two cases the notices were complied with, and in respect of the third, major schemes of alteration are to be put into effect in an attempt to prevent a nuisance.

Swimming Baths

There are no public swimming baths in the district. Small parties of school children are taught to swim in a private pool owned by a local charitable organisation. Samples of the water have been submitted for bacteriological examination and the result was very satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

There have been no cases of bed bugs infestations during 1955.

Rodent Control

One full time operative is employed and no serious infestations of rats or mice occurred during the year.

INSPECTION AND VISITS

Dwelling House

Number of Dwelling houses inspected	1246

Meat and Other Foods

Number of inspections of Butcher Shops	94
,, ,, ,, ,, Slaughterhouses ...	248
,, ,, ,, ,, Meat Distributors Vehicles	22
,, ,, ,, ,, Food Shops	398

Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders

Number of inspections of Distributors premises ...	15
Numebr of inspections of Distributors vehicles ...	72

Bake Houses

Number of inspections	24

Ice Cream Retailers

Number of inspections	84

Ice Cream Manufacturers

Number of inspections	24

Factories and Work Shops

Number of inspections	152

Petroleum Acts and Orders

Number of inspections of premises licenced to store petroleum	34

Caravan and Moveable Dwellings

Number of inspections of caravans and sites ...	19

Infectious Diseases

Number of visits of enquiry	94

Schools

Number of inspections	12

SECTION D

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

All food premises have been inspected regularly, and it is pleasing to note that whilst a number of offences under the Byelaws and the Food Drugs Act were found, these were remedied by the occupiers of food premises as soon as their attention was drawn to the infringements. No complaints were received from members of the public during the year, concerning unhygienic practices or bad food.

Ice Cream

There are 27 premises from which ice cream is sold and there is one producer of ice cream. Samples have been taken regularly and details are given below, of the number and results of these samples.

ICE CREAM SAMPLING

Number of Samples taken	Grade		
	1	2	3
77	54	21	2

Milk

There are five persons carrying on the trade of milk distribution within the district. Samples of milk are taken regularly and the results are given below.

Milk Sampling

Month	Samples Submitted	Passed	Failed
January	6	6	—
February	6	6	—
March	12	12	—
April	12	12	—
May	12	12	—
June	12	12	—
July	11	9	2
August	15	13	2
September ...	10	10	—
October	13	13	—
November ...	9	9	—
December ...	5	5	—
Total ...	123	119	4

Meat

All butchers shops have been inspected periodically. There were six licensed slaughter houses and killing and inspection figures are given below.

CARCASES and OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle (excluding Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	47	8	16	167	191	—
Number inspected	22	8	11	144	82	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	1	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	3	—	3	8	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	9.1%	37.5%	—	2·77%	12.19%	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	1	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	4.54%	12.5%	—	—	2.43%	—

Cysticercosis

No animals inspected were found to be affected.

SECTION E

Factories Act

The Ministry of Labour & National Service form 572 has been completed and forwarded to the relevant authorities.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. **General**

There was an epidemic of Measles during the year, starting in early May and continuing to the end of August. It formed part of an epidemic which was fairly general through the country. Of the 6 cases of Anterior Poliomyelitis, 1 was notified in August, 3 in September and 2 in October. They were all of the Paralytic type but were comparatively mild cases.

2. **Notifications**

Scarlet Fever	8
Measles	358
Whooping Cough	17
Anterior Polimyelitis	6
Pneumonia	6

3. **Tuberculosis**

Eleven new cases were notified during the year and there was one death. In 1954 eight cases were notified with two deaths.

4. **Cancer**

This dread disease continues to take its toll. There were 34 deaths during the year.